

VZCZCXRO3081
PP RUEHQU
DE RUEHPU #0539 1591133
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 081133Z JUN 09
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0004
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 2331
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 2060
RUEHQU/AMCONSUL QUEBEC PRIORITY 1428
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1888
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL PRIORITY

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 000539

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/EX, WHA/CAR, INR/IAA, S/CRS
INL FOR KEVIN BROWN, DIANNE GRAHAM AND MEAGAN MCBRIDE
WHA/EX PLEASE PASS USOAS
STATE PASS AID FOR LAC/CAR
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [HA](#) [PREL](#) [KCOR](#)
SUBJECT: HAITI MONTHLY: POLITICAL, MAY 2009

11. (U) This message is sensitive but unclassified -- please protect accordingly.

12. (U) Summary: This is a monthly report on various topics of interest which do not merit a full reporting cable. End summary.

13. (U) MEDICAL STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE. Medical and pharmacy students at Haiti's State University have now protested for over five weeks. Student demands included replacement of the trustee board, restoration of classrooms and laboratories, purchase of books, and rescheduling of cancelled courses. The demonstration turned violent on May 25 when students erected barricades in front of the School of Medicine and Pharmacy and threw rocks and bottles at the Haitian National Police and MINUSTAH's UNPOL officers. UNPOL administered tear gas to contain the violence. University authorities condemned the violence and invited the students to participate in a dialogue with faculty members to discuss a peaceful solution. Post will report on updates septel.

14. (U) SWEEPING CLEAN THE JUSTICE SECTOR CONTINUES. Minister of Justice Jean-Joseph Exume relieved two more magistrates in May for suspicion of corruption and other crimes including money-laundering, drug trafficking, carrying illegal weapons, and association with ''malfaiteurs'' (assorted criminal elements). Judge Rocky Pierre (who may have fled the country) of Saint-Marc has been implicated in the re-routing and subsequent disappearance of a boatload of rice intended to feed local residents after last year's deadly storm season. Ramon Guillaume, known locally to St. Marc residents as the ''Habeas Accomplice,'' is believed to have illegally facilitated the release of alleged criminals in exchange for material benefits. To date, Minister Exume has brought disciplinary action against at least seven magistrates for corruption.

15. (SBU) HIGH-PROFILE DEFECTIONS FROM PRO-GOVERNMENT LESPWA COALITION. Four well-known legislators left the Lespwa coalition during the month of May; a move that reflects some dissatisfaction within the loose grouping of parties that brought President Rene Preval to power in 2006. Those renouncing their allegiance to the coalition include former Chamber of Deputies President Eric Jean-Jacques, whose sympathies lie with Fanmi Lavalas; new Vice Questeur of the Chamber Stephen Benoit; and Hugues Celestin, a leader of an ad hoc coalition of Deputies known as the Coalition of Progressive Parliamentarians (CPP). Senator Jean-Hector Anacacis, whose sharp criticisms of the April 19 election

results caused many to conclude he left the Lespwa platform, subsequently announced he still considered himself a member despite his ''significant concerns'' about the elections. Despite these defections, Lespwa remains the largest party in the Senate (7 of 18 currently occupied seats, counting Anacacis) and Chamber of Deputies (17 of 99 seats) and stands to pick up several additional Senate seats after the second round of elections June 21.

16. (SBU) ADDITIONAL OFFICERS ELECTED IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. On the closing day of the first session of Parliament May 11, the Chamber of Deputies elected two new officers -- Vice-Questeur Stephen Benoit and Vice President for Sessions Poly Faustin. Benoit, a former Second Secretary of the Chamber and until recently a member of Lespwa, is a member of the majority Coalition of Progressive Parliamentarians (CPP) best known for shepherding the minimal wage law through the Chamber of Deputies. He will assist Questeur Chancer Cholzy with the financial and administrative oversight of the Chamber of Deputies. Faustin, a member of the smaller UPDN coalition and of the Fanmi Lavalas party, defeated OPL's Lutherking Emmanuel Marcadieu with the help of allies in the CPP. Faustin, as Vice President for Sessions, will have the unenviable job of rounding up errant Deputies to help the body muster a quorum. In the first three months of the year, the Chamber only managed to hold 18 sessions and at least 8 Deputies missed more than two-thirds of them.
SANDERSON